(25)

ENGLANDS

Tears and Lamentation

For her lost Friend

PEACE,

AND

Her comfort for the continuance of

TRVTH:

OR

Truth and Peace justly pleaded for, and truly Petitioned for, by him that is neither Factious nor self-affected, but onely desires the prosperity of his Country, and that Peace and the Gospel may be joyned together, without which we shall never expect to live in Unity.

London, Printed for *William Ley*, 1643.

WEre I indewed with the demure and seraphicall patience of Solomon, or inriched with the glistering Rethorique of Aristotle, then might I hope to perswade this depraved dissipated age, to lay aside there study of parties to part all, and sweetly insinuate perswasive reasons, that might win the spirits of this irrationall rage, seriously to lay their hands on their hearts, before the dayes come wherein we may all say we have no pleasure in them, and weigh in deepest judgement the direfull judgements that begin to pain and pinch us all, and look upon them not only as the fruits of pernicious counsell and Counsellors, but the black web of all our weavings, the sad prelages of *Jerusalems*, *Germanies*, *Irelands* line drawing over *England*, let every one mend one, each party quarrell with their own persons, and every man look into his own bosome, and he shall there see and read the tokens of an angry God: *England* hath abused the height of sweetest and dearest mercies, and in stead of being alured and won to serve that God who hath been the Donor, *Jesurun* hath waxed fat and kicked, and in the middst of our mercies we have forgotten the God of our mercies, and therefore (as *Chrisostome* sadly and seriously) it is just with God, that we that would not remember our God nor our selves, should be plagued in forgetting both, and now *Ephraim is against Manasses and both against Judah*, and most against God, O how happy should I think my selfe if I might write a word in due season, and all would look on it as apples of gold in pictures of silver, that while some are earnest Proctors for a pernicious peace without

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

without Christian learning, in a word most neglected truth under pretended zeal for peace, and many are possessed with zeal without discretion, and the generall seek neither with christian moderation. Oh times! Oh manners! what strange times are we fallen into, that none or few are found really to be *filii veritatis & pacis*, lovers of truth & peace: it is a Paradox in our age to love both, dreadfull must be our condition and bitternesse in the end, if there be found never a *Moses* that hath a fire of holy zeal, to rebuke and correct the people for Idolatry, and a meek mind to pray and seek their peace. Is not every man that is worthy the name of a Christian resolved into grief, to see the winters distemper of our age, which is such, that the love of many if not most is grown cold to truth and peace, truth much obscured, depraved, blemished, prejudic'd, undermined, discountenanc'd, surprised: peace very crazie and sadly shaken, not only with rumors of wars and preparation for war, study of sides and parties to pierce us all, not only great division of thoughts, pertinacy in opinions breeding disaffections, and now disaffections dreadfully flaming into open contentions and hostilities, so far as from the strife of pens and tongues, writing and disputing, we are come to the rigor of war, each party contending who shall obtain that woefull self destroying, wch without God work wonders, will make none but death Victor to slay, but let these cast but a little of the miseries of war, they would know it is there, as *Socrates* said it was in marriage, applying the similitude of the fishes, they that are without the net would fain be in, but they that are within would more fain be out, they that finding some discontent in peace called for war to ease them, would do as the old man did in the fable, who being heavy laden, threw his burden down and called for death to take him out of the world, but when death appeared ready to sa-

tisfie his desire, to put it off, desired him to help him up with his burden, as though he had called him for nothing else.

Oh blessed peace thou crowneſt thy yeere with thy goodneſſe, and thy paths drop fatneſſe, and blessed hast thou bin O England, and our eyes might have been blessed in beholding thee in the triumphs of peace, where we have seen plenty triumphing over famine in the country, riches triumphing over poverty in the Citie, learning triumphing over ignorance in the University, Justice almost triumphing over vice in the Kingdom, and the King triumphing over danger in the loyalty of his Subjects: these are the triumphs of peace; and the God of peace restore and continue this peace, that the fury of war may never turn this Paradise into a Wildernesse, nor make *England* which hath been a Map of Majestie to other Nations, a Map of confusion, and let us say, *beati pacifici*, after our Saviour, *blessed are the peace-makers for they shall be called the Children of God*; and let the blessing of our heavenly father crowne His Majesties Royall head with gray hairs, the silver crown of age, let God create the fruits of the lips peace, let that precious ointment which was richly shed upon the head of our high Priest Christ Jesus, descend to the skirts of his cloathing, with an influence of like vertue, that as our Saviour healed the womans issue of blood, so he may stanch the bleeding wounds of Church and State, that hath put it self under his protection, and that his sacred Majesty may speedily decline all pernitious counsells, and deliver into the hands of justice, all crafty *Achitophells*, that Prince and people may shout for joy, in seeing the nuptiall day of peace and truth, which hath as great a share in both as the former truth being the foundation, peace the lovely structure and building, the same Christ that said *blessed are the peace-makers*, with the

same blessed mouth said *blessed are the pure in heart*, which cannot be enjoyed without truth, though it be granted, which is as much as can be granted, that peace is the felicity of the Saints of heaven, the glory of the blessed Angells, the desire of nations, the royalty of God himself, yet let wise men consider, that without truth, these heights and the highest with reverence be it spoken, were but as sounding brasse and a tinckling Symboll, if peace be the felicity of the Saints, if truth were not in it would not it's beauty wither, it's silver become drosse, and it's gold tin? say it be the glory of Angells, were that glory worth the having, if this ingredient were not in it: & let the height of honor be set as a crown of incomparable gold, and pretious stones on its head, and let men men believe it is the royalty of God himself, yet without this let us cover our faces in speaking being we are not: Truth is the most transcendent glory of the devine Majesty, if we may say God is capable of degrees, all the glorious attributes of God receive there being from this, which if I speak as it is, is no lesse then God himself in his height of blessednesse, this truth is the increated light of the Intelectuall world, shining from God to Angels and men, and let mens hearts harp on this, that peace is the desire of nations, what is peace without Truth? not peace but the shadow of peace enjoyed without truth loved, is to use *Salomons* phrase like a jewell of pearl in in a swines snoat, and let me speak and all England hear, had truth blessed truths fundamentalls at least bin holily and thankfully received, peace had never departed, had truth been better welcome and more desired by all, peace had never taken it's leave so suddenly and sadly, and the only way to have

Peace

peace restored in purity and perfection, is to purge our hearts, and then seek Gods peace, and if none this blood not of nation but of our nation purge us, then blessed shal we be that are in such a case, ye happy that have the Lord fully and reconciledly for our God, and then the other I say of truth and peace as the author of both in another case, those whom God hath joyned together let no man dare to put asunder, as men naturally incline to follow that Petition with ardency, Lord send peace in our dayes, so let them with as much fervency and sincerity, contend for that of *Davids*, that righteousnesse and peace may kisse each other, and let that heart, tongue and hand, shack, perish, and wither, that will not say *Amen*.

Truth and peace like a loving couple, they seek the preservation of each others estate, and like *Hypocrates* twins they laugh together, and are like affected: survey their sweet congruity, and you will say as a lovely couple, it were sin and pitty to part them, truth and peace being *bona publica & universalia*, truth for the soul, peace for the body and state, every one hath a share and interest in the, Prince, Peers, and people: Behold with judicious eyes, and weigh with judgement the vanity, folly, misery, impossibility of reall injoyning one without the other, ponder, and ponder wisely, meekly, moderately, ruminate with serious and saddest thoughts on this, all ye that neglect the fair opportunities of peace, and look upon it with a foolish disdain like a coy dame on a loving furor, whom after she hath slighted and neglected, would upon second thoughts gladly imbrace with dearest affections when too late, but other guests will soon be invited, nay come ryding on the wings of the wind, and peace will dwell within our wals and plenteousnesse in our palaces, therefore let not any sons of *Belial* blow any longer the fire of contention, and in seeking their own ends, endeavour to end all

Doctor Gauden in his seasonable Sermon before the truely Honorable House of Commons.

all. Let not the Prince [illegible] rashly, but remember the advise given to *Augustus*, to repeat all the letters of his Alphabet when he was angry before he do any thing, and our dread Soveraign should do well to try all his keys, all his learning, all his skill first, all his Counsell, before he ingage his Royall Person, loving and loyall Subjects, in an unnaturall warr, and let him not proceed to warr implacably, *Hercules* club they say was made of Olive, an emblem of peace, and peace must there be desired where warr cannot be warranted, Oh that God would perswade his Royall heart not to go to warr, but as *Andronicus* proceeded to the execution of justice with the saying of St. *Paul*, in his mouth and heart, *non quod volo bonum facio, &c.* the good I would I do not, and the evill I would not that do I, and resolve with our Saviour, if my right eye offend me and my people, I will pluck it out, and if my right hand offend justly, I will cut it off, better one or few I account dear should perish then the whole body be inevitably lost, and let our right *Honorable* Parliament say as they have often, so God may be glorified, the King truly honoured, *Haman* hanged, the people blessed in the injoyment of truth and peace, let our honour lye in the dust, our estates wast, our pleasures and profits be known no more.

And let all men pray for King and Parliament, and that those that God hath joyned together, those may be accurst that ere part asunder, and let none sinfully prefer an unwarrantable unjust peace, before a just warr, least the just God teach them better divinity by the rod of severity, all know God justified Israels warr, with his Brother Benjamine, and commanded warr with Amalech; Warr in it selfe is an appeale to heaven by a sword, when other wayes of Justice upon earth, either by witnesse, oathes, or Leagues are made voyd, and invallid; and Religion is a

greater

best of blessings as God is the best of beings, a plentiful table to feede the body without profitable discours to feede the minde, is little better then a manger, Israel had 3. crownes as *Talmud* obserues, of the King, of the Priest, of the Law, but the crown of the Law was the chiefe of the three; in a word let peace and truth be in all mens lives and loves, truth as the roots, peace as the fruits, and yet all desire nothing more then that the sonne of God may raigne, and that with and under the sonne of God the King may command, and we as good subiects to the Christ and the King, may obay, so prayes he that loves truth and peace.

FINIS.